UNITED STATES DEP/ MENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

St. Thomas' Church is located at the intersection of St. Thomas Lane and Garrison Forest Road in Garrison, Maryland. There are three major sections of the church - the original part (now the nave) built 1743-44, the trancepts and chancel built in 1890 and the narthex in 1970.

The original Georgian church built of salmon red brick measures 56' by 36'. It had a gambrel roof, hipped at the ends. There are eight, large, round-arched windows in the nave, four in the north and four in the south walls. The top portion of the window including the arch have clear, hand blown, leaded glass in a diamond pattern; the bottom sections have rectangular panes with wooden mullions. Much of the glass is original and was installed in 1743. An original arched doorway remains as the central exterior bay of the south wall. During the late nineteenth century, this door was sealed and plastered over inside and the principal entrance moved to the west wall. The nave has a wide central aisle of brick. On either side of the aisle are box-type, panelled pews with doors.

In 1890, through the generosity of one of the parishoners, the church was enlarged by the addition of a chancel and trancepts. The steep gable roof was added at that time and later the cupola at the intersection of the ridge. The interior shows some Gothic Revival detail. Though the nave and trancepts have a flat ceiling, there are suggestio of molded ribs in a non-structural, rectangular pattern. They are visually supported b others arched from the walls and are decorated with typical late nineteenth century carving. The south trancept has a brick aisle and pews similar to those in the nave. In the north trancept is the choir and organ. The barrel vaulted chancel has a ceiling with the rectangular rib pattern. Its three round-arched, opaque stained glass windows, made by the John LaForge studios of New York in 1893, show Jesus in the center with angels and disciples in the smaller flanking windows. In the south trancept is a stained glass window, depicting an angel and a small child, made by the Tiffany in 1913. Both trancepts have rose windows.

In 1970, a narthex and gallery were added to the church and a basement dug under the nave. After 1890, there were four small windows and the principal entrance in the west wall. They are now covered by the new addition.

Surrounding St. Thomas' Church on three sides is a graveyard. Southwest of the church is the parish hall, built in 1877. Additions to it during the 1920's and 1950's provide church offices and Sunday school rooms.

Facing southeast toward the front walk to the church is a large, stone mausoleum in memory of Richard Henry Moale, Jr. (1802-1848). Built of large blocks of cut sandstone, the mausoleum's design is that of a small chapel with a stocky tower over a shallow, projecting narthex. The entrance and the three vertical belfry openings above it are slightly pointed. Both nave and tower have a gable roof. The roof of the building and the door are cast iron. Surrounding the building is a prominent water table. Between it and the cornice are marble panels — two vertical ones flanking the front tower, two horizontal ones on each side and three vertical in the rear. These give family Heaths from 1853 through 1964.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. Thomas' Church is located in Garrison Forest at St. Thomas Lane and Garrison Forest Road in Baltimore County, Maryland. This church, authorized by an act of the colonial legislature on October 22, 1742, was built just west of the main road from Baltimore to Hanover, Pennsylvania. The new parish, initially part of St. Paul's in Baltimore, was requested by people in the expanding settlements north and northwest of Baltimore.

In the area later known as Garrison Forest was a military post to protect the tobacco planters and others moving to the interior. Because the trip to Baltimore was too long and difficult, the settlers requested a "chapel of ease" be built. It was actually a mission of St. Paul's parish.

The proposal for St. Thomas' was approved by St. Paul's Vestry, wardens, parishioners and the rector, Rev. Benedict Bourdillion. The project was financed through voluntary subscriptions to supplement provincial government money. In 1742, the Assembly passed an act which not only permitted certain persons to receive the contributions but gave them the power to assess less willing parishioners. The 1742 act provided for William Hamilton, Christopher Gist, Samuel Owings, Christopher Randall and Nicholas Haile to receive subscriptions to purchase two acres of land and to build a chapel on it. If voluntary contributions were not successful, an assessment on the new parish was granted. It was not to exceed £ 133.65.8d. in any one year for a maximum of three years.

The site for the chapel was selected in 1743. Two acres of land were bought from Christopher Gist for £4, and on July 19, 1743, the deed conveying the land to the vestry was acknowledged before two justices for the county, T. Sheredine and Charles Ridgely. Construction of the Church began, and, by the end of the year, the walls (except for four or five feet at the gables) and the roof were completed.

The 1742 act stated that St. Thomas' chapel and congregation would become a parish independent of St. Paul's upon Rev. Bourdillion's death (January 5, 1745). According to Scharf's <u>History of Baltimore City and County</u> the limits of the parish then extended south to the old court-road leading from the Patapsco Falls to Joppa, north to the Pennsylvania line, west to the Baltimore County line, east to the Big Gunpowder Falls, and "on the northeast to the Western Run, Piney Run, and a line northwest in the same direction, separating it from St. John's parish, now St. James'".

Within the parish when it was formed were 675 taxable persons and a total population of about 1,350. The vestry of the Church of England in Maryland carried out civil functions in addition to church duties. They collected the Bachelor Tax to finance the French and Indian War and investigated behavior of citizens whether church members or not.

See Continuation Sheet 1.

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

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St. Thomas' Church Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

On May 28, 1745, St. Thomas' vestry contracted Col. William Hammond to level the church floor with earth within three bricks of the water table, floor part of the church with brick and cover it with pine plank on sleepers of red or Spanish oak and build five pews of panelwork. Because Col. Hammond failed to fulfill part of the contract, the vestry engaged William Cromwell on January 20, 1746, to build all the pews and to make the communion table rails and banisters of walnut. Col. Hammond was later (July 19, 1746) asked to paint the window shutters, doors, window frames and cornice red. By October 7, 1746, nineteen pews were finished and accepted. They were nearly square with seats on three sides with straight backs as high as the person seated.

The minister's salary at St. Thomas' Church was supported by a tax on all parish residents whether they were members of the Church of England or not. The sheriff collected forty pounds of tobacco for every white male and every servant over sixteen years. Records show a great increase in settlers in the area and a corresponding incre of four hundred percent in the minister's salary between 1745 and 1770.

St. Thomas' Church is significant historically and architecturally. The Church has been used continually since it was built. It was established as a type of mission church, part of St. Paul's parish in Baltimore. Even after St. Thomas' became a separate paris it continued to serve the new population of the settlements expanding northwest of Baltimore. The growth of the church is evident in its architecture. The Georgian nave and late nineteenth century additions are clearly visible. They as well as the recent narthex show good proportion and design.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET 2.

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St. Thomas' Church Baltimore County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

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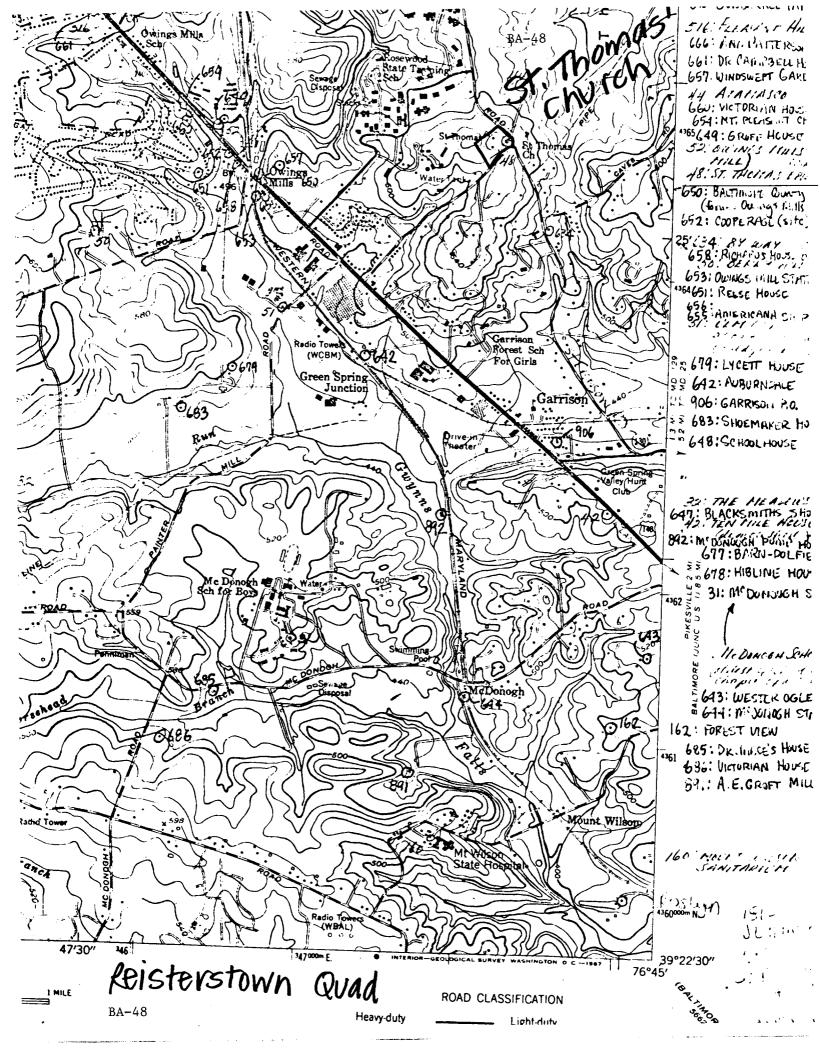
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Scharf, J. Thomas. <u>History of Baltimore City and County, Part II</u>. Originally published in one volume in Philadelphia, 1881. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co., 1971.





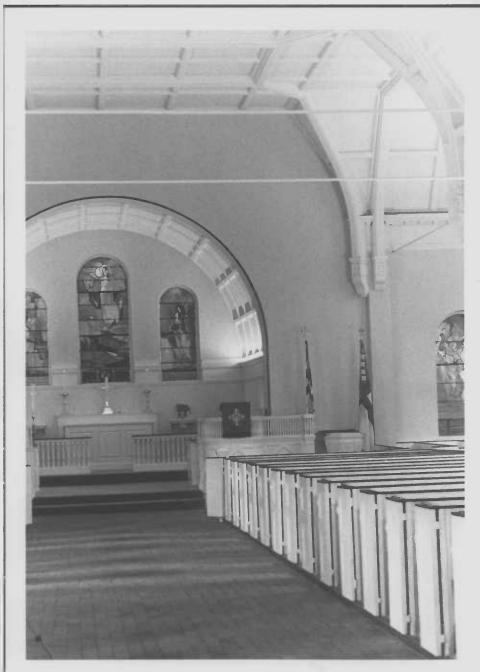
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SIA Nowsletter Vol8, No6 November 1979

CAST IRON AS ROOFING

Nothing less than remarkable is the vast number of uses to which cast iron was put in the 19thC, ranging from the purely structural to the highly decorative, to the utilitarian, to all combinations of the above. Not common was its employment as an architectural sheathing material, if we discount the "cast-iron-front" buildings where the castings themselves generally represent but a small percentage of the total wall area with respect to the window openings. There is, of course, the well-known cast-iron warehouse at Watervliet Arsenal near Albany, N.Y. (1859) in which the wall panels on all four faces are of iron, but that is a rare exception.

Recently observed was a small stone crypt in the burying ground of St. Thomas church on Garrison Forest Rd., near Owings Mills, Baltimore Co., Md., built in 1848. The roof is formed of very shallow cast-iron channel or pan sections, legs up, laid tight. Pairs of adjacent legs are embraced by narrow cast-iron channels turned down, sealing the joints between panels. Simple, weather-tight, and effective. The maker is not known but presumably was one of the many architectural foundries in Baltimore City. (See also the note on the cast-iron Weiskittel Burial Vault. SIAN Jan. 76:3.)





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